



# Memorandum

**TO:** MAYOR REED

**FROM:** Councilmember Liccardo

**SUBJECT:** BUDGET DOCUMENT

**DATE:** May 21, 2010

Approved

Date

5-21-10

## RECOMMENDATION

Preserve staff in the Strong Neighborhoods Initiative program serving the highest-needs neighborhoods.

## BACKGROUND

### City-Council Initiated Essential Services Preservation Fund/Other Budget Proposals

Program/Project Title: Restore Strong Neighborhoods Initiative Staff: 3.00 Full-Time Community Activity Workers & 2.94 Part-Time Community Activity Workers

Amount of City Funding Required: \$ 358,261.00

Fund Type (i.e. General Fund, C&C funds, etc.) General Fund

Anticipated Outcomes: Requested funding changes would affect benefits or services for San José residents, businesses, community groups, etc., as described below: (Use as much space as required.)

In 2009-2010, these positions were supported using funds from the Neighborhood Investment Fund Reserve. These employees serve at the frontlines of neighborhood battles against blight, neglect and gang activity in our most vulnerable neighborhoods. They assist our most diverse neighborhoods in countless ways, by informing the community of pending threats or opportunities, coordinating safety events, triaging scarce City resources toward the most urgent needs, and assisting in community organizing.

Often overlooked is the ability of this staff—with their energy and resolve—to enable the City to leverage many other resources—including volunteer energy and foundation funds—that have an extraordinary impact in our most challenged neighborhoods. In the McKinley neighborhood alone, the same employees implicated by this proposal were largely responsible for leveraging hundreds of thousands of dollars in direct and in-kind assistance from Nvidia, the Health Trust, SJSU, and Kaiser Foundation.

## Funding Source

Program/Project Title: Rebudget: Animal Licensing Program (VIII-117)

Amount of City Funding Change: \$ \$120,000.00

Fund Type (i.e. General Fund, C&C funds, etc.) General Fund

Anticipated Outcomes: Requested funding changes would affect benefits or services for San José residents, businesses, community groups, etc., as described below: (Use as much space as required.)

Staff has proposed to add funds to extend 2.5 Office Specialist Part Time overstrength positions, and this proposal would delete that "add." The funds were proposed to allow the Animal Care Center to continue gathering vaccination information from San Jose veterinarians, and use that contact information to remind pet owners of the animal licensing requirement, under the assumption that doing so could generate \$320,000 in licensing revenue. The City could more efficiently regulate pet licensing and generate revenue by simply passing an ordinance requiring all veterinarians serving San Jose residents to require that pet owners pay licensing fees at or prior to the time of vaccination. Remittance envelopes can easily be distributed to veterinarians to facilitate this process.

Program/Project Title: Earmarked Reserves: Unemployment Insurance (IX-39)

Amount of City Funding Change: \$ 238,261.00

Fund Type (i.e. General Fund, C&C funds, etc.) General Fund

Anticipated Outcomes: Requested funding changes would affect benefits or services for San José residents, businesses, community groups, etc., as described below: (Use as much space as required.)

It is anticipated that there will be some reduction in per-employee compensation for several bargaining units—whether through concessions or implementation of reduced pay and benefits. Those savings will enable the City to avoid some layoffs, and accordingly, reduce its unemployment insurance obligations. One can conservatively expect that the amount contemplated above—less 3% of the total—will become available as a result of those savings, and this proposal would not put the payments to any employees at risk.

Department or Organization: Budget Office

Department or Organization Contact (Please list contact information for the individual that certified cost estimates contained within your recommendation.)

Name: The Cost Estimates are derived directly from the Proposed Budget – see page VIII-37.

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

This change is:

☒ One-time      ☐ Ongoing

The City Service Area to which the change best relates:

- ☐ Community and Economic Development Services
- ☐ Environmental and Utility Services
- ☐ Neighborhood Services
- ☐ Public Safety
- ☒ Strategic Support
- ☐ Transportation and Aviation Services

